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Rural District of Malmesbury

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

Year ended 31st December, 1949

Public Health Officers of the Authority:

(a) **Medical Officer of Health—**

C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D., D.P.H.

(b) **Sanitary Inspectors—**

R. S. PIERCE, C.S.I.B.
Meat and other Food Inspectors Cert. R.S.I.
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

D. B. FOXWELL, C.S.I.B.
Additional Sanitary Inspector.

J. Riddick, Printer and Stationer, Malmesbury

To the Chairman and Members of the

Malmesbury Rural District Council.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1949. This report is based on Ministry of Health Circular 2/50 dated 25th January, 1950.

I should like to thank Mr. Pierce and the Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. L. BROOMHEAD,

Medical Officer of Health.

Vital Statistics for 1949.

Area (in acres)	.....	58,129
Population	.....	9,349
No. of Inhabited Houses (end of 1949 according to Rate Book)	.....	2620
Rateable Value	.....	£47,599
Sum represented by penny rate (estimated)	.....	£194

	M	F	Total	Rate per 1000	Rate per 1000 E&W
LIVE BIRTHS—					
Legitimate	81	99	180		
Illegitimate	3	2	5		
	84	101	185		
Birth Rate				19.7	16.7
STILL BIRTHS—	5	1	6	.64	.39
DEATHS—	60	52	112		
Death Rate				11.8	11.7
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES—					
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0	0		
Other Maternal Causes	0	1	1		

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR—					
All Infants per 1000 live births	4	0	4	21.6	32.0
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	3	0	3		
Illegitimate Infants per per 1000 illegitimate live births	1	0	1		
DEATHS FROM—					
Cancer (all ages)	7	6	13		
Measles (all ages)	0	0	0		
Whooping Cough (all ages)	0	0	0		
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	0	0	0		
Influenza	0	2	2		
Respiratory Diseases (21, 22, 23)	10	5	15		
Heart Diseases and Blood Vessels (18, 19, 20)	29	30	59		

Birth and death rates for 1949 show a slight increase as compared with 1948 when the rates per 1000 of the population were 17.3 and 10.2 respectively. The figure of 21.6 which denotes the death rate of all infants under 1 year per 1000 live births shows a marked decrease as compared with the years 1947 and 1948 when the rates were 43.6 and 24.6 per 1000 live births respectively.

Prevalence of Infectious Disease.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis and Food Poisoning) occurring during the year 1949.

Disease		Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	.....	13	11
Diphtheria	.....	0	0
Whooping Cough	.....	6	0
Measles	.....	61	0
Poliomyelitis	.....	0	0
Typhoid Fever	.....	0	0
Pneumonia	.....	5	4
Dysentery	.....	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	.....	0	0
Erysipelas	.....	2	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	.....	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	.....	0	0

It is gratifying to note that no cases of Poliomyelitis were reported during the year, and that immunisation is so successful in limiting the number of cases of Diphtheria.

Deaths from all causes.

Cause		Male	Female	Total
Typhoid and parat. fevers	.....	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal fever	.....	0	0	0
Scarlet fever	.....	0	0	0
Whooping cough	.....	0	0	0
Diphtheria	.....	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of resp. sys.	.....	2	0	2
Other forms of tuberculosis	.....	1	0	1
Syphilitic diseases	.....	0	0	0
Influenza	.....	0	2	2
Measles	.....	0	0	0
Ac. polio-myel. and polio-enceph.	.....	0	0	0
Ac. inf. enceph.	.....	0	0	0
Cancer of buc. and oesoph. (M) uterus (F)		1	1	2
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	.....	2	1	3
Cancer of breast	.....	0	0	0
Cancer of all other sites	.....	4	4	8
Diabetes	.....	1	1	2
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	.....	7	5	12
Heart diseases	.....	17	24	41
Other dis. of circ. sys.	.....	5	1	6
Bronchitis	.....	4	3	7
Pneumonia	.....	2	1	3
Other resp. diseases	.....	4	1	5
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	.....	0	0	0
Diarrhœa, under 2 years	.....	0	0	0
Appendicitis	.....	1	0	1
Other digve dis.	.....	1	2	3
Nephritis	.....	2	0	2
Puer. and post abort. sepsis	.....	0	0	0
Other maternal causes	.....	0	1	1
Prem. birth	.....	0	0	0
Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis.	.....	1	1	2
Suicide	.....	1	0	1
Road traffic acc.	.....	1	1	2
Other violent causes	.....	1	0	1
All other causes	.....	2	3	5
	Total	60	52	112

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality.

Age Periods	NEW CASES Respiratory M	NEW CASES Respiratory F	NEW CASES Non-Respiratory M	NEW CASES Non-Respiratory F	DEATHS Respiratory M	DEATHS Respiratory F	DEATHS Non-Respiratory M	DEATHS Non-Respiratory F
0								
1					1			
5							1	
15					1			
25	2							
35	1							
45								
55								
65 and upwards								
Total	3	0	0	0	2	0	1	0

Three cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year as compared with five respiratory and one non-respiratory during 1948. There were three deaths due to tuberculosis during 1949 as compared with one death during the previous year.

It should be noted however that the above table only shews the number of new cases notified during the year. It, of course, does not show the actual number of tuberculous persons living in the district.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

During the year under review a Magistrate's Order was obtained for the removal of one male to an Institution under the provisions of Section 47 of the above Act.

The person concerned in this case was aged, infirm and living in insanitary conditions. His living accommodation consisted of an outhouse devoid of the usual domestic facilities for washing, conservancy, etc. Moreover, he was not receiving from others proper care and attention.

Every attempt was made to persuade the man to enter an Institution voluntarily, but without avail.

In addition to the foregoing, two other cases in need of institutional care were brought to my notice. The persons concerned agreed to enter an Institution voluntarily.

Food Poisoning.

During the year under review, one case of food poisoning was reported, which was subsequently not confirmed.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The following children completed a full course of immunisation during the year.

Ages 1 to 4—97. Ages 5 to 14—135.

Total—232.

It is estimated that the following percentage of children have been immunised against Diphtheria.

Ages 1 to 4—(40.4%). Ages 5 to 14—(72.7%).

Total—(60.2%).

Water Supplies.

In 1949, the Council acquired 7.120 acres of land at Corston Spring as a reservation area. A scheme has been prepared for works of protection and utilisation of the spring and construction of water mains in Corston and Rodbourne, and of a 130,000 gals. concrete water tower with incidental plant and works at Rodbourne, on a site acquired, of .250 acre. The tower will ultimately be the means of water supply to the parishes of Somerfords and Lea and Cleverton.

In 1949, a 3-in. main was laid from the Dauntsey boundary to Great Somerford housing site and a 6-in. main from Hill House, Little Somerford to Lea housing site (near school).

I am indebted to Mr. C. G. Campbell, the Council's Waterworks Manager, for the following information concerning water supplies in the Rural District.

(i) The public supplies taken in bulk from adjoining authorities, where treatment is carried out at the respective sources, have been satisfactory in quality.

The quality of the Council's supplies, to which no treatment plants are installed, has been variable.

The borehole supply at the Council's source at Hullavington dropped considerably during the month of August and did not return to normal for three months. In order to maintain a supply to the village arrangements were made for a temporary connection to be made to the Air Ministry's main at Hullavington R.A.F. Station.

Since the extensions from Hill House, Little Somerford to Lea Housing Scheme and from the Vicarage, Dauntsey to the Great Somerford Housing Scheme have been completed, a number of consumers in the Brinkworth and Dauntsey areas have experienced a considerable reduction in pressure, particularly during the maximum dry periods, and it is realised that the Brinkworth system has now exceeded the effective limit of supply.

(ii) The following supplies are taken in bulk from adjoining authorities :—

Brinkworth Dauntsey Minety Lea & Cleverton (part) Great Somerford (part)	In bulk from Cricklade & Wootton Bassett R.D. Council
Sherston (bulk) Luckington Sopworth Foxley & Norton (part)	From West Gloucestershire Water Company
St Paul Without Malmesbury (part of special burial district)	In bulk from Malmesbury Borough Council

Chemical and bacteriological examinations and treatment are carried out at the respective sources of the above supplies.

SUPPLIES FROM COUNCIL'S SOURCES.

	Chemical	Bacteriological	
Crudwell	–	1	Bacteriological examinations show no evidence of severe pollution
Hullavington	–	1	
Oaksey	–	1	

No treatment plants are installed at the above sources and there is no plumbo-solvent action.

(iii) Number of dwelling houses and number of population supplied by public water mains :—

Parish	No. of Dwellings	Population supplied	Direct to Houses	By Stand-pipes
Sherston	373	1492	317	56
Brinkworth	188	752	188	—
Dauntsey	87	348	87	—
Minety	174	696	174	—
Hullavington	98	392	98	—
Oaksey	85	340	65	20
Crudwell	87	348	87	—
Malmesbury St. Paul Without	174	696	159	15
Lea & Cleverton	81	324	81	—
Foxley & Norton	14	56	14	—
Luckington	45	180	45	—
Sopworth	29	116	29	—
	1435	*5740	1344	91

* Average No. per house taken as 4.

Report of Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for the year ended 31st December, 1949.

Housing.

The Rural Housing Survey was completed during the previous year and the results recorded.

Re-inspection during 1949 totalled	96
No Statutory Action was taken during the year	
Number of houses repaired by informal action	62

Council Houses.

During the year a direct labour repair organisation was started.

Number of inspections of Council Houses	752

The disposal of drainage from the houses is as set out in the schedule hereunder:—

Parish	Address	No. of Houses	Means of Disposal
Brinkworth	The Street	8	Septic tank and sub-surface irrigation
Charlton	Vicarage Lane	2	Septic tank & filter bed
Crudwell	Tuners Lane	16	Settlement tank, filter bed and surface irrigation
Dauntsey	The Green	8	Individual cesspits
,,	St. Johns	4	Septic tank and sub-surface irrigation
Great Somerford	Dauntsey Road	6	Individual cesspits
,,	,,	10	Septic tank and sub-surface irrigation
,,	Winkins Lane	10	Septic tank & filter bed
Hankerton	Nr. Post Office	6	Septic tank & filter bed
Hullavington	Newtown	8	Septic tank and sub-surface irrigation
,,	Greens Close	10	Septic tank and sub-surface irrigation
Lea	Main Road	12	Individual cesspits
,,	The Street	6	Septic tank & filter bed
Lt. Somerford	Nr. Rly. Station	8	Individual cesspits

Luckington	Church Road	8	Individual cesspits
,,	,, (new scheme)	4	Septic tank & filter bed
,,	Bristol Road	8	Individual cesspits
Minety	Station Road	4	ditto
,,	Sawyers Rise	12	Septic tank and filter
Norton	Foxley	2	Septic tank & filter bed
Oaksey	Wick Road	8	Individual cesspits
,,	Bendy Row	14	Septic tank & filter bed
St. Paul Without	Burton Hill	2	Sewer
,,	,, Bungalows	14	Sewer
,,	Exhibition Cott.	1	Septic tank and sub-surface irrigation
,,	Corston	6	ditto
Sherston	Knockdown Rd.	12	Sewer
,,	Green Lane	16	do.
,,	Easton Square	20	do.
,,	Church Close	4	Septic tank and sub-surface irrigation
,,	Perretts Close	4	ditto
Sopworth	Church View	4	ditto

It will be observed that, in this connection alone, there are 81 tanks which require periodical emptying and 18 plants which require attention.

Erection of Council Houses.

The following houses were completed during the year:—

Oaksey	14	Airey Type
Lea	6	Airey Type
Great Somerford	10	Airey Type
Hullavington	10	Traditional

Houses commenced:—

Crudwell	12	Cornish Unit
Lea	8	Cornish Unit
Great Somerford	6	Cornish Unit
Hullavington	12	Traditional

Number of inspections of houses and sites 185

Charlton Park Camp.

The requisition of this camp was transferred to the Council and a scheme prepared and approved by the Ministry of Health for a first conversion scheme, providing 32 units of accommodation.

Number of inspections in connection therewith	45

Private Enterprise Building.

ADMINISTRATION OF BUILDING BYELAWS.

Number of plans submitted for approval	83
Number of plans approved	83
Number of inspections for the purpose	248

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1947.

Number of applications	149
Number approved without conditions	88
Number approved with conditions	59
Number rejected	2
Number of inspections for the purpose	274

BUILDING LICENSING.

Number of applications for licences	56
Number of licences granted	51
Value of licences granted	£31,151
Number of inspections for the purpose	112

Water.

34 samples from private sources were submitted for examination during the year and necessary action taken thereon.

Number of inspections for the purpose	52

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Sewers and small obsolete disposal plants exist in the following parishes:—Crudwell, St. Paul Without (Burton Hill) and Sherston.

Sewers but no treatment plants exist at Brinkworth, Hullavington, Lea, Luckington, Oaksey, Corston, Great Somerford, Little Somerford and Sopworth.

Number of inspections in connection therewith	97

The Council's Consulting Engineers have prepared an outline scheme for the greater part of the Rural District. Sites for disposal plants etc. are being selected and detailed schemes prepared for the parishes of Brinkworth, Crudwell, Great Somerford, Hullavington, Minety, Oaksey, St. Paul Without (including Corston), Sherston and Sopworth.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Household refuse is collected fortnightly in Sherston and twice monthly in the remainder of the Rural District The collection is carried out by direct labour and refuse is deposited at four tips—Brinkworth (owned by the Council), Oaksey, Sherston and Hullavington (by arrangement with the owners). Collections generally have been satisfactory and no serious difficulty has been experienced at the tips.

During the year, the lorry covered 8947 miles on refuse collection.

83 inspections were made in connection with collection and disposal.

Rodent Control.

The refuse tips have been treated regularly for the destruction of rats, and sewers show no infestation.

60 visits have been made in connection with this service.

Infestations.

Cases reported and dealt with were:—

Flies	...	1
Wasps	...	2

Infectious Disease.

Disinfections were carried out following

10 cases of Scarlet Fever.

1 case of Tuberculosis.

Nuisances.

Number of inspections	22
No statutory notices were served	
Number of inspections in connection with drains and drainage disposal	151

Food.

Milk.

By the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, which came into operation on the 1st October, 1949, the supervision of milk production and handling at the place of production was transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Local Authority remains responsible for distributors only.

The number of milk distributors registered is	4
Number of inspections during the year	243

Bakehouses.

Five bakehouses in the District are clean and generally in good condition.

Meat.

There is no slaughtering in the District, all meat being delivered from the Ministry of Food central slaughter house.

120 lbs. of beef was condemned.

Fried Fish Shops.

One fried fish shop is registered and is satisfactory.

Ice Cream.

Number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream	10
Number of inspections	19

Other Foodstuffs.

The following foodstuffs were condemned :—

9 various tins.
11 jars pickle.
19 lbs. sugar.
39 lbs. fish.

Shops.

Number of inspections of food shops	45

Public Houses.

Number of inspections of public houses	43

Factories Act, 1937.

Number of inspections	23